

I. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent.

Claims 1 - 13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Quistgaard, Vining, Fenster '371, Fenster '473, Hossack and Yamazaki for the reasons discussed on pages 5 - 13 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

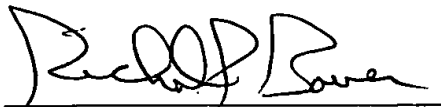
The Examiner rejects the under 35 U.S.C. §103 in light of the cited prior art including newly-cited reference (Vining). Vining discloses a method and system for effective interactive, three-dimensional renderings of selected body organs for purposes of medical observation and diagnosis. In the passage relied upon by the Examiner in column 11, lines 1 to 24, Vining discloses that cropping can be used to reduce the volume of a dataset representing a three-dimensional volume. **This is performed prior to selection of data used to generate a view of a target volume** for the sole purpose of reducing the dataset.

However, neither Vining (nor any of the other cited art) discloses or suggests the Applicants' invention, as defined in independent Claims 1 and 13. More specifically, none of the cited art (either individually or in combination) discloses or suggests the transformation of a portion of the image data within the received two-dimensional images **that is necessary to view the selected three-dimensional image surface, wherein the portion that is transformed is less than all of the image data within the received two-dimensional images**. Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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